

3/4/71

Dear Senator Ervin,

Enclosed are copies of my most recent exchange with the Army. You will recall that I sent you copies of the earlier letters going back to last year.

When I was out of town, during the limited time I had access to TV, your excellent hearings were getting the attention they so richly warrant.

The official arrogance displayed in this correspondence, even when your hearings are going on, is incredible to me. The Freedom of Information law requires promptness in response to requests, most of all for the regulations with which the applicant must comply. Mr. Boulanger had my request in front of him when he wrote, but he did not even refer to this. The intent to frustrate the law is obvious, as is the intent to wear me down and thus deny me my rights under the law and the law a chance to work. As the correspondence shows, my December request for these regulations is still ignored in March.

When these hearings are over, there is another aspect of official denials of constitutional rights I would like to be able to discuss with you. I have in my possession pretty much all the information you would require for a hearing and probably most of the evidence you would need. What you might want in addition I can either provide or lead you to, if you are interested.

It is a matter that I believe is worth the attention your hearings are now getting and, I think, has a reasonable chance of achieving it.

Should you desire to have one of your staff go into this earlier, I will be glad to go to your office on my next trip to Washington, to make a special trip for that purpose, or to welcome your representative here, where what I could not carry with me would be readily accessible.

And if you regard as a constitutional right the right of a citizen to obtain public information from his government, the enclosed is but a very minor sample of what I have accumulated on that. If this is not a constitutional right, what right is vested in the First Amendment? The record of the present administration, as reflected in my own files alone, is beyond belief. Lies are the rule rather than the exception; delays are without exception, and those of six months not rare; and I believe there are not fewer than two cases of overt perjury - official perjury.

I hope all concerned citizens share my appreciation for the fine public service you and your staff and fellow members are rendering.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg